



Hearts Apart Newsletter

January 2010

Filing Taxes When a Service Member Is Deployed

Filing state and federal income taxes may be the last thing you want to deal with right now, especially if you or your service member are deployed. But as overwhelming as it may seem, filing your tax return should not be difficult. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized that service members and their families often face special circumstances, and has put in place ways to make this annual obligation less of a burden.

Getting started

If you are a service member or are filing on behalf of one, there are a few things you should know before getting started.

- File returns in your permanent home state. If you are stationed somewhere other than your permanent home address, in most cases you will still pay state taxes to your home state. For instance, if your address of record is in Kansas, but you are stationed in California, you will file state taxes with Kansas. Spouses working outside their home of record in most cases will also have to file a state tax return for the state in which they are employed.
- Access your tax statement online. As a member of the Armed Forces, you can view and print out your W2 form before it is mailed to you. Go to myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. You will need your personal identification number (PIN) to access your W2 form.
- Be sure to have power of attorney if filing for a deployed service member. Attach a copy of your power of attorney to your tax return. You may use IRS Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative. The form can be found at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf.
- Find answers to your questions on the IRS Web site. The IRS has a detailed tax guide for members of the Armed Forces at www.irs.gov/publications/p3/index.html.



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Hearts Apart Dinner

The Airman & Family Readiness Center would like to invite you to an evening on us.



Friday, January 15, 2010

6:00 p.m.

New China Buffet

Call (580) 213-6288 for more information.



Hearts Apart Coffee Chat

Coffee Chat is a new program designed to give families of deployed, remote, or TDY an opportunity to informally meet others experiencing the same lifestyle. This is a great venue to build camaraderie! The next Coffee Chat is scheduled for Jan 14, from 9:00 - 10:00 am, in the Airman & Family Readiness

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Combat zone and hazardous duty deadline extensions

The IRS extends filing deadlines for members of the Armed Forces for the following reasons:

- *You or your spouse are serving in a combat zone or in direct support of those in the combat zone and receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay.* The deadline for filing income taxes is 180 days after your last day in the combat zone or hazardous duty area. Go to www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html to see a list of combat zones. In addition to the 180 days, the extension includes the number of days left in the filing period when you entered the combat zone or hazardous duty area. The filing period is January 1 through April 15. So, if you or your spouse entered the combat zone on March 31, you would add 15 days to your 180-day tax filing extension.
- *You or your spouse is hospitalized outside of the United States as a result of injuries suffered in a combat zone or hazardous duty area.* The deadline is 180 days after discharge from the hospital. Note that the extension does not apply to the spouse if the service member is hospitalized in the United States.

Your command will have notified the IRS of your deployment to a combat zone but you may want to notify the IRS directly through its special e-mail address. E-mail the deployed member's name, stateside address, date of birth, and date of deployment to combatzone@irs.gov or call the IRS main helpline at 800-829-1040. If the IRS sends a notice regarding a collection or examination, return it to the IRS with the words, "Combat Zone" and the deployment date in red at the top of the notice so the IRS will suspend the action. Write, "Combat Zone" on the envelope as well.

Getting help with your taxes

Service members and their families can get help at many installations through the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Check with your legal center to see if this service is available at your installation. VITA volunteers will help you file your taxes free of charge. Go as early before the filing deadline as possible to avoid long lines. If you decide to see a private tax preparer, make sure he or she is familiar with the IRS Armed Forces' Tax Guide and has experience filing returns for service members and their dependents. When you go, bring the following with you:

- Military ID
- All W-2 and 1099 forms
- Social Security cards for all family members
- Deductions and credit information
- Bank account and routing numbers (if you choose to receive your refund by direct deposit)
- Receipts for child care expenses
- Last year's tax return, if available

VAFB Legal Office (VITA Program)

(580) 213-7404

A&FRC Financial Consultant

Mrs. Ruthie Wisdom-McMeans

(580) 213-7517

- Special power of attorney authorizing you to do business on behalf of the deployed service member
- Before sending in your completed tax forms, double-check your figures and make sure all Social Security numbers are entered correctly. And remember, unless you qualify for an extension, the filing deadline for federal income taxes is April 15. Filing deadlines vary from state to state so check with the local county tax office for the filing deadline in your state.

Resources

Your military support services

Each service branch sponsors information and support programs for service members and their families. You can call or visit any installation Army Community Service Center, Marine Corps Community Services, Fleet and Family Support Center, or Airman and Family Readiness Center regardless of your branch affiliation. If you aren't near an installation, National Guard Family Assistance Centers are available in every state. The Local Community Resource Finder on the National Guard Family Program site at www.guardfamily.org will identify your closest center.

Military OneSource

This free 24-hour service is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members (regardless of activation status) and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues, including issues related to parenting, deployment, and reintegration. Free face-to-face counseling sessions (and their equivalent by phone or online) are also available. Call 1-800-342-9647 or go to www.MilitaryOneSource.com to learn more.

[This article is provided to service members and their families as part of the Military OneSource program, which offers information and support on a wide range of family and personal issues. To access the program just go to www.militaryonesource.com or call Military OneSource today. From the United States call 800-342-9647. From overseas call collect 484-530-5908. Military OneSource is brought to you by the Department of Defense at no cost to you. © {2008} Ceridian Corporation. All rights reserved. Used by permission.]

Readiness Emergency Sleeping Tool (REST)

Do you have a child that can't bear the thought of being without their deployed Mommy or Daddy? Come in to the A&FRC and get your well-deserved REST. We'll take your favorite picture and transfer it onto a pillowcase so they will be right there when your child goes to sleep.

If you reside outside the local area (Enid) you can email your digital photo along with your mailing address to bobbie.white@vance.af.mil and we will mail the pillowcase to you. For more information, contact TSgt White at (580) 213-6288.



Car Care Because We Care

The Air Force Aid Society will pay for a free oil and filter change, and a 15-point safety inspection at the Base Service Station for Air Force families of deployed, TDY, or remote personnel (your spouse must be gone for 30 days or more to apply). Spouse on remote or 365? We'll do it twice during the twelve-month period for you!

For information and a voucher, contact the A&FRC at (580) 213-6330.

What's For Dinner?

How does **FREE** food sound? Well it's a reality! The base Chapel, in cooperation with the Vance community, hosts the Single International Gourmet Meal Opportunity (SIGMO). SIGMO is free and open to all single active duty members and families of the deployed/remote/TDY members. The next SIGMO will be Monday, Jan 25 at the Chapel Community Activity Center (CCAC), Bldg 528, from 4:45 – 7:00 pm. (Dates could change due to Night Flying Operations)

For more information, please call the Chapel at (580) 213-7211.

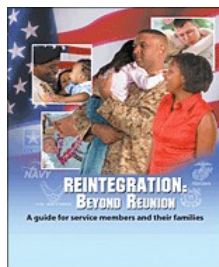
Parent's Need a Break!

Mark your calendars! The next "Give Parents a Break" will be on Jan 23, from 6:00 to 11:00 pm. Air Force families can use their "Give Parents a Break" certificates from Air Force Aid Society. For all others the cost is \$3.75 per hour per child.

For more information, contact A&FRC at (580) 213-6330 or the Child Development Center at (580) 213-7310.

Free Reunion Booklets

A&FRC offers free items to help military families deal with reunion stress in healthy, positive ways. Stop by the center to pick up your free copies or call (580) 213-6228 for more information.




What is Heartlink?

Heartlink is a fun and informative orientation specially designed to give military spouses a better understanding of how important they are. The program is targeted for spouses who have been married to military service members for less than five years. All interested spouses are invited to attend. The program's goals are to increase spouse awareness of the military mission, customs, traditions, protocols, and available resources and services.



The next Heartlink is scheduled for Jan 26 at the A&FRC from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. For more information,

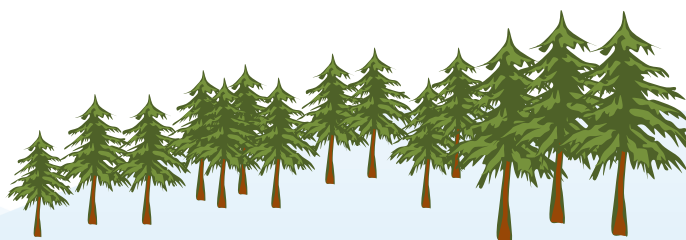
Did You Know?

- Tops in Blue will perform 30 Jan at 6:30 p.m. at the Chisholm Trail Expo Center. This is a free performance to the public.
 - Anheuser-Busch has announced that, through 2010, members of the active-duty military representing all five service branches may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch's SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission. The offer includes active members of a reserve or National Guard unit and up to three direct dependents. Parks available: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio; Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg; Sesame Place; Water Country US; and Adventure Island. Park operating schedules and registration forms are available at www.herosalute.com. Participants also can gain admittance at the entrance plaza of a participating park. A Defense Department photo ID will be required.
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- Last year, the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) awarded \$6 million in college education grants to Air Force dependents. Your son, daughter or spouse could be an eligible candidate. Visit the Society's web site at www.afas.org <<http://www.afas.org>> for information and application for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program. Don't automatically think you won't qualify. What have you got to lose? A \$2,000 college grant!
 - The National Military Family Association is now accepting scholarship applications from military spouses for a \$1000 "Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship". This scholarship allows spouses to obtain professional certifications or attend post secondary school or graduate school. Applications are due by 31 Jan 2010 and can be found at <http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships/scholarship-instructions.html>.
 - The Vance Commissary is currently supporting the 2010 Scholarships for Military Children program. This program awards \$1,500 scholarships to well-rounded, accomplished service members' children. All dependent, unmarried children of active duty personnel, Reserve, guard and retired military members, survivors of service members who died while on active duty, or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall of 2010. Go to www.militaryscholar.org or www.commissaries.com for details. Applications are available now. The application deadline is 17 Feb 10.

Airman & Family Readiness Center
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446 McAffrey Ave, Suite 15
Vance AFB, OK 73705
Phone - (580) 213-6330
Fax - (580) 213-6227



If your loved one has returned or you would like to be removed from the Hearts Apart Mailing List please contact TSgt Bobbie White at (580) 213-6288 or email bobbie.white@vance.af.mil.



Year of the Air Force
Family

